

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: NPL Proposal of Wilcox Oil Company, Bristow Oklahoma

DATE: February 04, 2013

CONTACT: Brenda Nixon Cook,
Region 6 NPL coordinator

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: Information Only

DEADLINE DATE: No Action is due.

BACKGROUND:

Wilcox Oil Company (Wilcox) includes the inactive and abandoned Lorraine and Wilcox oil refineries located in Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma. The property was utilized by two different refineries with overlapping boundaries from 1915 to 1965. Wilcox Oil Company (Wilcox) operated as a crude oil refinery from the 1920s until 1963. A skimming and cracking plant was constructed in 1929. The main components of the plant consisted of a skimming plant, cracking unit and re-distillation battery with vapor recovery system and treatment equipment. Wilcox expanded when it acquired the Lorraine Refinery in 1937, which was located adjacent to Wilcox. The two refineries comprise 125 acres. The site includes remnants of former oil refining operations and tank farms.

CURRENT STATUS:

The site is currently inactive, a church and six residents are located within the former refinery boundaries. Intermittent streams drain the source areas and flow to Sand Creek. Multiple sampling events have been conducted by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality at the request of EPA Region 6. PA, SI and ESIs have been performed at both facilities. The State of Oklahoma referred the site to EPA because the state of Oklahoma does not have the resources to address the site in a timely manner and the potentially responsible party refused to voluntarily address site contamination.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

The site includes remnants of former oil refining operations and tank farms. Currently there are six residents living on-site, homes are located in areas of former waste operations. A release of copper, lead and PAHs has been documented to the wetlands of Sand Creek. Sand Creek flows to Little Deep Fork Creek from which fish are caught for human consumption.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL from the state of Oklahoma on May 04, 2012.
- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has been working with on-site residents during the assessment process.
- EPA will work with the community and ODEQ during the Superfund process.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The site is scheduled to be proposed to the NPL as part of the April 2013 rule making.

